

Claim 15

15. (Amended) A bearing pad assembly comprising:
- a first housing having a bore extending through said first housing;
  - a first load bearing member coupled to said first housing and defining an abutment surface opposite to said first housing;
  - a second housing having a bore extending through said second housing, adapted to telescopically receive said first housing;
  - a second load bearing member coupled to said second housing and defining an abutment surface opposite to said second housing; [and]
  - at least one spring in the shape of a toroidal ring positioned within said first housing bore, for urging said first and second abutment surfaces away from each other in response to a load imposed on at least one of said abutment surfaces;
  - and
  - at least one slip lining positioned between an exterior surface of said first housing and a bore wall defining said second housing bore.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were pending prior to this Response; claim 9 is cancelled herein; claims 1, 8, 10-13 and 15 are amended, and therefore claims 1-8 and 10-15 remain for consideration.

In the Office Action of October 31, 2000, Examiner states that claims 9-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 9. Consequently, amended claim 1 is now allowable. Because claims 2-8 and 10-14 each ultimately depend from allowable amended claim 1, these dependent claims are likewise allowable for at least the reasons set forth for claim 1.

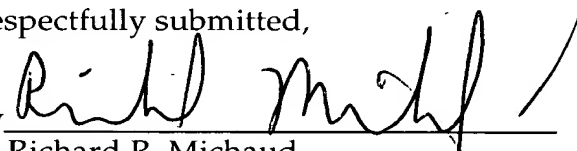
Independent claim 15 is amended herein to include the slip lining limitation added to amended claim 1. It is therefore submitted that amended claim 15 is allowable for at least the same reasons Examiner deems amended claim 1 to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1-8 and 10-15 are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

No fees or deficiencies in fees are believed to be owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any such fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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